

LECONTE, J. L.

1874. Descriptions of new Coleoptera chiefly from the Pacific Slope of North America. Trans. American Ent. Soc. 5:43-72.

1875. Descriptions of new Coleoptera of the United States with notes on geographical distribution. Trans. American Ent. Soc. 5:169-176.

BOOK NOTICE

THE BIOLOGY OF MALAYAN SCOLYTIDAE AND PLATYPODIDAE, by F. G. Browne, Malayan Forest Records No. 22, 255 pp., 1961.

Mr. Browne devoted some 30 years to the study of the forest insect fauna of Malaya and Sarawak. During that period he made many observations on Scolytidae and Platypodidae that can be classified as "biological" in the broadest sense. He has recorded his discoveries and, at the same time, assembled data from available sources to make the information as complete as possible. The author discusses the flora of Malaya and the climate. He purposely avoids more than a minimum amount of comment on taxonomy of the beetles feeling that much study remains to be done before justifiable conclusions on systematics of these insects can be reached.

THE ELEMENTS OF STYLE, by William Strunk, Jr., revised by E. B. White, xiv and 71 pages. Macmillan Paperbacks No. 107. 1962. (Price \$.95)

This highly recommended little book was, as stated in the introduction, Strunk's attempt to cut the vast tangle of English rhetoric down to size and write its rules and principles on the head of a pin.

BEETLE TALK

In the BULLETIN of 1949 Hugh B. Leech gave us a few lines of an interesting letter written by E. A. Schwarz to H. G. Hubbard in 1897. It is from one of the many Schwarz letters published in Journ. New York Ent. Soc., Vol. 37, 1929. The letter is so delightful that we reproduce most of it here. Schwarz is reporting on an odd beetle, later named *Cactopinus hubbardi* Schwarz, collected by Hubbard in *Cereus* cactus in Arizona.

"I must confess that your account of the 'most marvelous Cioid' did not strike me particularly and made up my mind that it was a species of *Ozognathus* (Ptinidae), the males of which have peculiarly-formed horns on the head. On Saturday upon returning from Office after 4 O'cl. P.M. I found your package and in order to see whether everything was all right I opened the pill boxes. When I came to the box containing the 'Cioid' and looked at the latter I came near being paralyzed and it required a superhuman effort and a swallow of whiskey to recover. Your Cioid turns out to be a most remarkable and entirely new genus of Scolytids!! In fact it is a long time since I put my eyes upon a more odd-looking creature than this species. After recovery I mounted at once a couple of specimens, for it happened that at 5.35 P.M. I had invited Smith, Hopkins and Alwood to dinner at Gerstenberg's with the understanding that they should spend the evening hours in my room, all three of them to leave between 9 and 10 o'cl. with the B. & O. R.R. During dinner (everything as usual fried in cockroach grease) I narrated about that Scolytid and Hopkins could hardly wait for the time to look at it. Upon returning home the specimens were at once exhibited and Hopkins became perfectly wild with excitement and cursed his miserable West Virginia Scolytids because they did not show any distinguishing characters except after a most painful scrutiny. One of your Scolytids ♂ happened to be alive and we had an opportunity to watch the movements of this wonderful species. Smith got also excited and in order to prevent further mischief I had Ida at once fetch a pitcher of lager beer. This smoothed the excitement and two subsequent pitchers were drunk to your health, and it was unanimously voted that no one but yourself would have been able to unravel the secrets of the *Cereus* fauna."